CLAIMS

1. A method for measuring the activation of an effector cell belonging to the immune system, which may or may not be transformed, by means of a monoclonal (MoAb) or polyclonal antibody characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 receptor-expressing cells into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of the antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 receptor-expressing cell.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the effector cell is a CD16 receptor-expressing Jurkat cell.

3. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that at least one cytokine selected from IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, TNFa, TGFβ, IP10 and IFNγ is quantified.

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the interleukin IL-2 is quantified.

5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the amount of cytokine produced is a marker for activation or for inhibition of effector cells.

6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the amount of interleukin IL2 secreted reflects the quality of the antibody bound by the CD16 receptor as regards its antigen-binding integrity (Fc function) and effectiveness (antigenic site).

7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6,

characterized in that the amount of interleukin IL2 secreted is correlated with an ADCC-type activity.

8. A method for evaluating the effectiveness of a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody, characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 receptor-expressing effector cells of the immune system into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of an antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 receptor-expressing cell.

9. A method for evaluating the ability of a cell to produce an effective monoclonal antibody, characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 receptor-expressing effector cells of the immune system, which may or may not be transformed, into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of an antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 receptor-expressing cell.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the cells producing antibodies are chosen from CHO, YB2/0, human lymphoblastoid cells, insect cells and murine myeloma cells, or any other expression cell.

11. A method for evaluating the effectiveness and the integrity of polyclonal antibodies after one or more purification steps, characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 receptor-expressing effector cells of the immune system, which may or may not be transformed, into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of the purified antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 receptor-expressing cell.

12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the antibodies for which an increase of more than 100%, 250%, 500% or 1000% in the

amount of IL-2 release by CD16-expressing cells is observed compared with the control in the absence of antibody, or in the presence of a given antibody as negative reference, are selected.

13. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the reaction mixture comprises human immunoglobulins (IVIgs).

14. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that it also comprises an ADCC assay.

15. The use of the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14, for selecting a chimeric, humanized or human monoclonal antibody capable of inducing the production of at least one cytokine selected from IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, TNFa, TGFβ, IP10 and IFNγ, by a CD16 receptor-expressing effector cell.

16. The use of the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14, for evaluating the production of MoAbs by transgenic plants or transgenic mammals.

17. The use of the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14, for selecting antibodies that are effective for a therapeutic treatment, in particular the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, cancers and infections with pathogenic agents.

18. The use of a chimeric, humanized or human monoclonal antibody that can be obtained from the method as claimed in one of claims 15 to 17, for preparing a medicament for inducing the production of at least one cytokine by an effector cell belonging to the immune system.

19. The use of a chimeric, humanized or human monoclonal antibody produced by cells of rat myeloma

lines, in particular YB2/0 and its derivatives, for preparing a medicament for inducing the production of at least one cytokine by an effector cell belonging to the immune system.

20. The use as claimed in claim 19, for preparing a medicament for inducing the production of at least one cytokine selected from IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, TNFa, TGFβ, IP10 and IFNγ, by a CD16 receptor-expressing effector cell.

21. The use of a chimeric, humanized or human monoclonal antibody having a glycan structure of the biantennary type, with short chains, a low degree of sialylation, nonintercalated terminal attachment point mannoses and GlcNAc, and a low degree of fucosylation, for preparing a medicament intended to induce the secretion of at least one cytokine by an effector cell belonging to the immune system.

22. The use as claimed in claim 21, for preparing a medicament for inducing the production of at least one cytokine selected from IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, TNFa, TGFβ, IP10 and IFNγ, by a CD16 receptor-expressing effector cell.

23. The use of a composition of antibodies having a glycan content of greater than 60%, preferably greater than 80%, for the G0 + G1 + G0F + G1F forms, it being understood that the G0F + G1F forms are less than 50%, preferably less than 30%, for preparing a medicament intended to induce the secretion of at least one cytokine by an effector cell belonging to the immune system.

24. The use as claimed in claim 23, for preparing a medicament for inducing the production of at least one cytokine selected from IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, TNFa, TGFβ, IP10 and

IFNγ, by a CD16 receptor-expressing effector cell.